

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 30, 2004. Claims 1-14 and 25-87 have been canceled. Thus, claims 15-24 are pending.

Examiner's Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 16, 18, 20 and 22. Applicant further notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 19, 21, 23 and 24 contain allowable subject matter. In this regard, claim 19 has been rewritten in independent form. Thus, *claims 16 and 18-24 are now in condition for allowance based on the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.*

Drawing Objection

The drawings stand objected to in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. In particular, the Office Action contends that the voltage for switching off the data/scanning line inspection-use elements while the LCD is driven, and the external circuit wire, must be shown in the drawings.

This drawing objection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons. Referring to the drawings for purposes of example only, per claims 15-16, data-line inspection-use switching elements are switched off by the control signal line (e.g., see reference numeral 25 shown in Figs. 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, etc.) which is clearly shown in numerous figures in the drawings. Moreover, the instant specification explains that they are turned off when the display panel is driven (e.g., pg. 94, lines 2-14; and pg. 138, lines 1-16). Thus, the feature of switching off the data/scanning line inspection-use elements

while the LCD is driven is clearly illustrated in the drawings, and also is discussed in detail in the text of the specification.

With respect to claims 17-18, these claims cover, *inter alia*, Embodiment 4 of the instant application, characteristics of which are shown in Fig. 15. Fig. 15 illustrates that the data/scanning line inspection use control signal line 25 (24) is connected to a power source on the negative side of the drivers (external circuits) 20.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the aforesaid features are clearly illustrated in the drawings of the instant application.

Formality Objection re Claims 23-24

Claims 23-24 stand objected to in paragraph 23 of the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that the changes to claims 23-24 herein address and overcome any potential issue in this regard.

Claim 15 – Art Rejection

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Shimada (US 5,576,730). This Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 15 has been amended to state that "a voltage for switching off the data-line inspection-use switching elements is applied to the data-line inspection-use control signal line while the liquid crystal display panel is driven so that all data-line inspection-use switching elements are off when the liquid crystal display panel is driven." For example,

all inspection-use switching TFTs 26a in the drawings are off when the liquid crystal panel is driven. The cited art fails to disclose or suggest this aspect of claim 15.

The Office Action contends that data line transistors 7 in Shimada are "data line inspection use switching elements." However, when Shimada's display is driven, at least some of transistors 7 must be turned "on." Accordingly, Shimada cannot possibly realize the requirement of claim 15 that all data-line inspection-use switching elements are *off* when the liquid crystal display panel is driven.

Moreover, one of ordinary skill in the art would never have modified Shimada to meet this aspect of claim 15. This is because if all TFTs 7 in Shimada were off, then the display could not be driven. Accordingly, it is clear that claim 15 defines over the cited art.

#### Conclusion

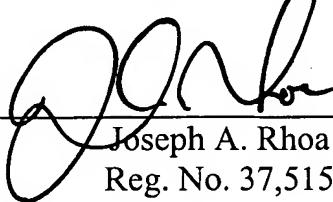
For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections and objections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

NAGATA et al  
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Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Joseph A. Rhoa  
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj  
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100